

MAISON FRANÇAISE D'OXFORD



MUSEUM *of the*
HISTORY *of*
SCIENCE

Scientific Communication and its History – III

Climate and Weather: Science as Public Culture

Conference at the Maison Française d'Oxford

Reception at the Museum of the History of Science

7 – 9 January 2013

This conference is the third in a series devoted to historical and contemporary perspectives on the communication of science and technology. Climate and weather provide a particularly rich and challenging case study to complete the conference series. As with other disciplines studied during the previous conferences, the climate sciences are characterised by complexity: in their professional networks; their conceptual models; and the logistics of their large-scale data and computing needs. Yet few modern scientific disciplines attract the same level of public engagement, in both everyday life and passionate debate on the future of the planet. Moreover, their status at the intersection of policy, scientific controversy and the public sphere is not a recent development: the same issues and fault lines ran through meteorology from the 18th-century onwards. Shifting interests within the history of science and the development of environmental history have greatly expanded the field in recent years. The conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on these historiographical developments via a specific focus on the communication of weather and climate from the 18th to the 21st centuries. The conference will address three themes in particular: Commodification of meteorological knowledge, Media, and Historicizing climate history.

Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ

Maison Française d'Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, Oxford, OX2 6SE, fifteen minutes north of the city centre.

For further details, contact Thomas Le Roux, thomas.leroux@history.ox.ac.uk. Please tell us if you will be attending.

Monday 7th January 2013
Museum of the History of Science

18.00. Reception at the Museum of the History of Science including a private view of the exhibition “Atmospheres: Investigating the Weather from Aristotle to Ozone”. Welcome by Stephen Johnston, Acting Director.

Tuesday 8th January 2013
MFO

9.15 Welcome, by Cyril Van Effenterre (French Embassy), Anne Simonin (MFO), Muriel Le Roux (ENS-IHMC) and Thomas Le Roux (MFO)

9.30 General introduction, by Jean-Baptiste Fressoz (Imperial College, London) and Fabien Locher (CRH-EHESS/CNRS)

9.45 – 13.00. Session “Commodification of meteorological knowledge”

Chair. John Perkins (Oxford Brookes University)

9.45. Julien Vincent (University Paris I), *Disembedded Weather: Labour, Free Trade, and the Political Economy of Climate in the British Empire (Mid-Nineteenth Century)*

10.15. Yngve Nilsen (University of Bergen), *Shifting Relations Between Meteorology and Economic Interests in Norway 1860-1900*

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

Chair. Robert Fox (University of Oxford)

11.15. Jamie L. Pietruska (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey), *The U.S. Weather Bureau and the Policing of Counterfeit Weather Forecasts at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*

11.45. Vladimir Jankovic (University of Manchester), Andrew Bowman (University of Manchester), *'Think of It As a Market Transition': Big Green Business and the Promise of Climate Crisis*

12.15 – 13.00. General discussion on this session

14.15 – 16.30. Session “Media”

Chair. Stephen Johnston (Museum of the History of Science, Oxford)

14.15. Alexander Hall (University of Manchester), *Framing the Sky: The (re)Birth of Weather Forecasting on British Television, 1954*

14.45. Julie Hudson (Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford), *'If You Want to Be Green Hold your Breath': Climate Change in British Theatre*

14.45 – 15.15. Coffee break

15.15. Susanne Lorenz (University of Leeds), *The Communication of Scientific Uncertainty and Climate Adaptation in the Media: Comparing the UK and Germany*

15.45 – 16.30. General discussion on this session

17.00 Lecture

Chair. Pietro Corsi (University of Oxford)

Pascal Lecomte (European Space Agency, Harwell-Oxford), *Data: From Satellites to the Public. The Value of Climate Data, their Cost and How they are Perceived by the Public*

Wednesday 9th January 2013 MFO

9.00 – 13.00. Session “Historicizing climate history”

Chair. Muriel Le Roux (ENS-IHMC, Paris)

9.00. Anouchka Vasak (University of Poitiers), *1802, « The Invention of Clouds », as Seen from Either Side of the Channel.*

9.30. Thomas Labbé (University of Burgundy), Fabien Gaveau (CESDIP CNRS- French Ministry of Justice), *Vinyard Harvest Dates and History of Climatology: Some New Epistemologic Reflections*

10.00. George N. Vlahakis (Hellenic Open University), *Climate, Weather and Society in 19th century Greece*

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

Chair. Serge Plattard (European Space Policy Institute, Vienna)

11.00. Philippe Forêt (University of St Gallen), *Overland to India. The Debate on Climate Change of 1904-1914*

11. 30. Matthias Heymann, Janet Martin Nielsen, Kristian Hvidtfelt Nielsen (Aarhus University), *Negotiating Simulation Knowledge: Alternative Perspectives on Climate and Climate Change*

12.00 – 12.45. General discussion on this session

12.45 – 13.00. General discussion

14.00 – 15.30 Round Table “Communicating Science and its History”

This Round Table will be devoted to the entire cycle of conferences on Communicating Science and its History, organised by the MFO and held in 2011 in Oxford, in 2012 in Paris and in 2013 in Oxford. Round Table coordinated by Muriel Le Roux

Organised by the Maison Française d'Oxford, in collaboration with the Museum of the History of Science, the Faculty History of the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, the Centre Koyré (EHESS) and the Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine (IHMC), and with the support of the French Embassy, London.

Organising Committee

Pietro Corsi, Oxford University

Jean-Baptiste Fressoz, Imperial College, London

Robert Fox, Oxford University

Stephen Johnston, Museum of the History of Science, Oxford

Muriel Le Roux, ENS/IHMC, Paris – Maison Française d'Oxford

Thomas Le Roux, Maison Française d'Oxford

Fabien Locher, CRH (CNRS/EHESS), Paris

Jeanne Peiffer, Centre Koyré (CNRS/EHESS/MNHN), Paris

John Perkins, Oxford Brookes University

Viviane Quirke, Oxford Brookes University

MAISON FRANÇAISE D'OXFORD



MUSEUM *of the*
HISTORY *of*
SCIENCE

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
FRENCH EMBASSY



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY



Centre Alexandre Koyré EHESS - CNRS - MNHN